

## Statement to Guyana Police

# Cultist: Jones Did Not Order Attack

PH 12/14/78

Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A People's Temple member charged with five counts of murder in the slayings of Rep. Leo Ryan and four other persons has told police he accepts full responsibility for the deaths and for injuries to other persons at the scene, informed sources said today.

"I, Larry Layton, take full responsibility for all the deaths and injuries that took place at the Port Kaituma airstrip," the statement begins. "I had begged Bishop Jim Jones that I be allowed to bring down" the plane that was to carry Ryan and his party back to Georgetown on Nov. 18.

The sources said the statement says Jones, the cult leader, turned down Layton's request.

The content of Layton's statement, which the prosecution said would be introduced later in a preliminary hearing that began today, was reported by informed sources who declined to be named. The hearing is to determine if there is enough evidence to bring Layton, 32, of San Francisco, to trial.

Another American, Charles Beikman, 43, of Indianapolis, Ind., is charged with four counts of murder in the throat-slashing deaths of a Temple member and her three children in Georgetown. His hearing is recessed until Friday.

Shortly after the airstrip shootings, more than 900 Temple members died in a massive suicide-murder.

Layton said in the statement that he borrowed a gun from a friend and proceeded with his plan on the belief that Ryan, a California Democrat, and others in his party worked for the CIA and were trying to discredit Guyana, the sources said.

Layton, who had boarded one of the Ryan party's two planes, began shooting while the plane was still on the ground, the statement said, because he heard gunfire at the airstrip and believed it was too late for his plans to wait until the plane was off the ground before opening fire. It concluded, "I don't know why I did it."

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# Cultist: Jones Rejected Attack

GUYANA, From A1

Layton's role at the airstrip during the shootings also was described by Dale Parks, 27, one of the Peoples Temple members who tried to flee the Jonestown settlement with Ryan.

Parks told Magistrate Krishna Veni Chinta that Layton joined a truckload of defecting Peoples Temple members at the last moment after talking with Jones.

Layton insisted on going on the smaller of two planes that were to carry the Ryan party back to the Guyanese capital of Georgetown from the jungle airstrip 150 miles to the northwest, Parks said.

Layton boarded the plane without permission from Ryan's administrative assistant, who was assigning seats, Parks testified. The witness said Layton was taken off the plane and searched but nothing was found, and he returned to the same seat, directly behind the pilot.

The small plane with its five passengers plus the pilot had taxied to the end of the runway when gunshots were heard near a larger plane that was to carry the rest of the group, Parks said.

Just before the shots rang out, he said, Layton was saying, "Hurry up, get off the ground, there's going to be trouble."

When the shots were heard, Layton produced a pistol from the front of his trousers and started firing, Parks said.

He first shot Monica Bagby, who was sitting in front next to the pilot, then shot Vern Gosley next to him, then pointed the gun at Parks' chest and pulled the trigger, Parks said.

Parks said he was sitting in the third row of seats, beside his sister Tracy and behind Layton. "There was an explosion but no bullet came out," Parks said. "I fell back thinking I had been shot."

"He (Layton) turned around and shot Monica one more time and Vern Gosley one more time. Realizing I was not shot, I jumped him and fought him for the gun," Parks said.

He wrested the gun from Layton and all those aboard the small plane jumped out and fled into the brush surrounding the small airstrip as gunfire continued near the larger plane

at the other end of the runway, he said.

Parks, wearing a striped jersey and brown pants, stood in an elevated witness box at the side of the dingy courtroom, leaning against a carved railing and twisting his hands together.

Layton sat upright in the accused's box about 15 feet away. He stared intently at Parks, a deep frown on his thin face.

After the gunfire was over, Parks said, he gave the gun to Richard Dwyer, deputy chief of the U.S. Embassy in Georgetown, who had been wounded in the fusillade at the larger plane.

The .38-caliber Smith and Wesson was examined in court by prosecutor Mangram Kissoon, who wore a black business suit, and Layton's three lawyers, all dressed in white Nehru jackets.

Parks said he saw five bodies on the airstrip. "I recognized my mother, Patricia Parks. She had been shot in the head with her brains blown out," he said.

The other bodies were those of Ryan and three newsmen.

Rex H. McKay, Layton's chief counsel, did not question Parks on his description but probed in depth his connections with Peoples Temple, which Parks joined at the age of 7.

McKay bore down when Parks denied preaching at the sect's California Temple, saying he had information to the contrary. Parks almost broke down under repeated hard questions.

Parks testified that Layton had occasionally come to the Jonestown clinic to pick up medication for what Parks thought were emotional problems.

Asked whether he was laying the groundwork for an insanity defense, McKay said such a defense was possible, but would not be necessary because the prosecution could not prove conspiracy.

Kissoon said he will prove Layton conspired with Joe Wilson, the acting head of Jim Jones' security force, to kill Ryan and others in his party.

Murder in Guyana is punishable by hanging, although there have been no executions in this South American country since it gained independence from Britain in 1966.



United Press International

Larry Layton is led from Georgetown courthouse.